



NEWS RELEASE

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Alleged Driver Charged with Murder for Chatsworth Street Race Crash

The alleged driver of a vehicle that crashed during an illegal street race, killing two spectators, has been charged with murder, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Kaveh Faturechi said Karen Gary Balyan (dob 12/4/72) faces two counts of murder in case PA083096. The case was filed for warrant on April 10.

Balyan pleaded not guilty today and is due to return on June 22 in Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

Eric Siguenza, 26, and Wilson Thomas Wong, 50, died when the car allegedly being driven by the defendant spun out of control during an illegal street race in Chatsworth on Feb. 26, the prosecutor said.

Henry Michael Gevorgyan, 22, and Israel Valenzuela, 39, also face two counts of murder for their involvement on the same case.

On April 21 they were ordered to stand trial on the charges and they are due back on June 11 in Department E at the San Fernando courthouse.

Bail for Balyan was set today at \$3 million. If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 30 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Traffic Division.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.